

REMARKS

With respect to the claim rejections of claims 1-10 and 15-41 based on U.S. Patent No. 6,629,097 (Keith) either alone or in combination with other cited references, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that each of these claims is allowable.

Claims 11-14 have been cancelled without prejudice. These claims have been cancelled to advance the remaining claims to allowance, and not for reasons related to patentability of the cancelled claims.

With respect to claim 1, none of the cited references, including Keith, teach or suggest a method for identifying an individual's personal, human networking style. The section of Keith referenced in the Office Action (col. 16 and lines 19-62) does not teach or suggest "human networking style." In contrast to the present invention of claim 1, Keith is generally directed to a system to help a user find words that have associated meanings so that the user can readily browse through information. Basically, Keith describes an improved searching tool. Keith does not teach and is not directed to human relationships or human networking. Keith is directed to a different problem (i.e. how to efficiently search through large amounts of data) than the invention of claim 1 (assisted human networking). Thus, claim 1 is allowable over Keith.

With respect to claim 2, Keith fails to teach or suggest acquiring information about a person's behaviors and characteristics in relation to human networking with other individuals. Further, Keith teaches away from the claimed invention of claim 2. Specifically, Keith teaches of data that is "not specified by human operator." (Col. 16, lines 26-27). Keith teaches of data relationships (not human relationships), where the data relationships are determined by the system and are not specified by human input. In direct contrast to Keith, claim 2 recites "acquires information about a person's attitudes, behaviors and characteristics as specified by input from a human user in relation to human networking with other individuals." Thus, Keith teaches away from the invention as defined by claim 2. Claim 2 is therefore allowable.

Keith fails to teach the specific combination as defined by claim 15. For example, Keith fails to disclose a first relationship link associated with relationship currency information with respect to a personal human relationship between the human user and the first contact. Again,

Keith discloses relationships between data, such as semantic and linguistic structures of words and text. Keith does not teach or suggest human relationships. Further, Keith teaches away from claim 15. As discussed above with respect to claim 2, Keith teaches away from receiving a plurality of information as specified by input received from a human user, as recited by claim 15. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, claim 15 is allowable.

Keith fails to teach the specific combination of elements as defined by claim 24. For example, Keith fails to disclose a first relationship link associated with relationship currency information with respect to a personal human relationship between the human user and the first contact. Again, Keith discloses relationships between data, such as semantic and linguistic structures of words and text. Keith does not teach or suggest human relationships. Further, Keith teaches away from claim 24. As discussed above with respect to claims 2 and 15, Keith teaches away from inputting a plurality of information regarding a first user within an organization as specified by a human operator, as recited by claim 24. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, claim 24 is allowable.

Keith fails to teach the specific combination as defined by claim 29. For example, Keith fails to disclose a plurality of relationship links that provide information regarding a personal human relationship. Keith discloses relationships between data, not humans. Keith does not teach or suggest human relationships. Further, Keith teaches away from claim 29. As discussed above with respect to claims 2, 15, and 24, Keith teaches away from providing information regarding a first person that is specified by a human operator, as recited by claim 29. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, claim 29 is allowable.

Keith fails to teach the specific combination of elements as defined by claim 39. For example, Keith fails to disclose a plurality of relationship links that provide information regarding a personal human relationship with respect to human affairs. Keith discloses relationships between data such as semantic and linguistic structures of words and text. Keith does not teach or suggest human relationships. Further, Keith teaches away from claim 39. As discussed above, Keith teaches away from providing information regarding a first person that is specified by a human operator, as recited by claim 39. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, claim 39 is allowable.

Since each of the independent claims is allowable, each of the dependent claims is likewise allowable over the cited references. Further, the dependent claims include additional features not found in the cited references. For example, none of the cited references teach or suggest networking frameworks for a manager's subordinates (claim 3); or an indication of a perceived level of mutuality (claim 17), predictability (claim 18), knowledge (claim 19), or power and/or influence (claim 20). Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that any of these perceived human traits can be determined simply based on a person's job or age. In fact, if age inherently defined and determined a person's power or influence within an organization or business, this would likely constitute illegal age discrimination. As an additional example, Applicants disagree with the Examiner's position that a change of address or job inherently teaches a perceived change in human behavior (see claim 30). Again, Keith is describing a data structure and the claimed invention is directed to a perceived human trait. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.


Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney or agent.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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